AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method ~~of Claim 12 wherein identifying packet flows further comprises~~ for classifying packets based on content, the method comprising:

identifying packet flows, said packet flows comprising a TCP stream;

determining if a packet is out of order;

transmitting the out of order packet to its client to have missing packets resent;

buffering the out-of-order packet until the missing packet is received; ~~and~~

making the packet flow associated with the missing packet available for content searching;

searching packet content across the identified packet flows to find one or more predetermined regular expressions;

computing a hash for predetermined strings of the regular expressions to find one or more subexpressions; and

using a tag map to:

perform a mapping between said regular expressions and said subexpressions; and

generate a modified tag corresponding to matches between predetermined expressions and subexpressions; and

tagging packets with said modified tags.

14-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A system for sequencing packet streams for content classification, the system comprising:

an enqueue engine that receives the streams and reads the stream identification of stream packets to determine if a packet is out of order;

a stream tracker interfaced with the enqueue engine that associates packets to streams based upon the stream identification read by the enqueue engine;

a dequeue engine interfaced with the stream tracker and operable to forward packets for classification based on the packets' stream identification; and

a packet buffer interfaced with the enqueue engine for storing packets, wherein the enqueue engine is operable to:

transmit an out-of-order packet so that missing packets can be resent;

mark the out-of-order packet as sent; and

buffer the out-of-order packet.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The system of Claim 18 wherein the dequeue engine is further operable to receive a stream identification, forward the next packet of the stream associated with the stream identification if the stream tracker indicates the next packet is ready, and forward the next packet of a second stream if the next packet of the associated stream is not ready.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20 wherein the dequeue engine updates the stream tracker to indicate when a packet is forwarded for classification.

22-28. (Canceled)